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B7C CKP
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(56) Documents Cited

GB 2230495 A **US 4841591 A**

(58) Field of Search

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(54) **Wheel cleaning cover**

(57) A wheel cleaning cover, eg for a golf trolley, comprises two semi-circular halves 1, 2 hinged together. When a golf trolley is not in use, wheel covers can be closed around the trolley's wheels and fastened encasing the wheels and isolating any mud, dirt or grass stuck to the wheel. The closed cover can be rotated so that internally adhered brush type material (10, 11 Figure 8) acts to remove any mud, dirt or grass from the wheel, debris from the wheel remaining within the cover until the cover is removed from the wheel.

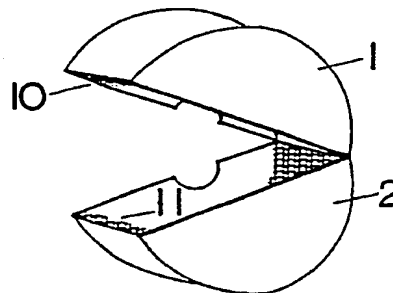


FIG 9
Front View
(Open)
Isometric

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At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1990.

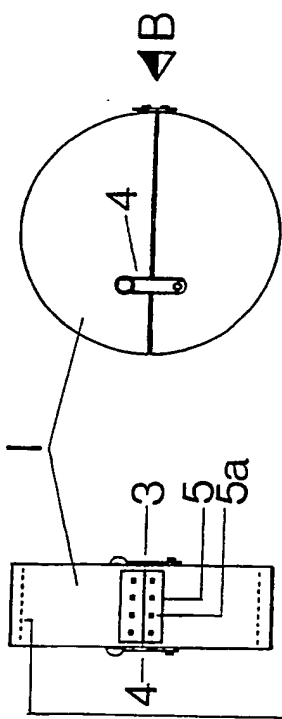


FIG 3
Side View 'B'
(Closed)

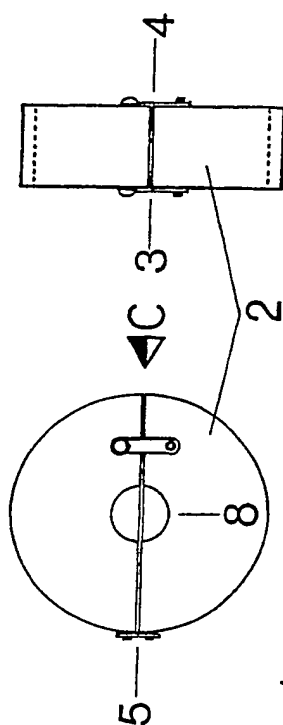


FIG 2
Rear View
(Closed)

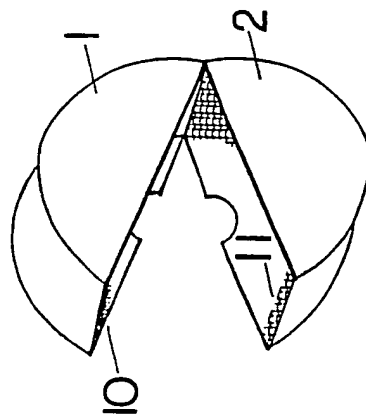


FIG 9
Front View
(Open)
Isometric

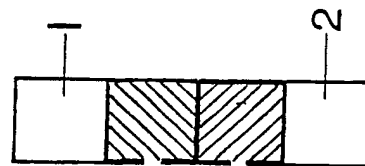


FIG6
Side View'D'
(Open)

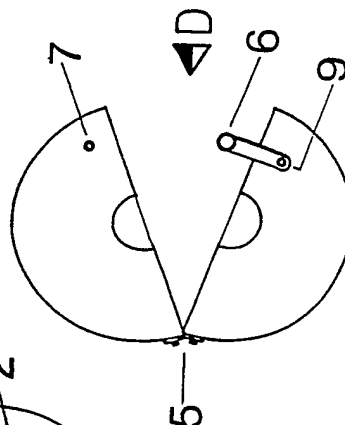


FIG 7
Rear View
(Open)

This invention relates to a **wheel cleaning cover**.

Golf trolleys are widely used by golfers to assist in carrying their golfing equipment, while on a golf course. During play in winter and more severe weather, golf trolley wheels gather mud and wet grass, which tends to stick. This does not affect play, but presents golfers with a problem after completion of their sporting activity. It is not always possible to clean trolley wheels after use, weather conditions may make this impractical or cleaning facilities may not be available. Often golfers have to put trolleys, with dirty wheels, into vehicle interiors or lockers, this dirt can mark, dampen or damage such areas and upholstery.

According to the present invention there is provided a wheel cover comprising of two number hinged, hollow, semi-circular casings, in the form of a circular cover when closed. This wheel cover, when closed around a wheel, could prevent dirt from the wheel, soiling it's immediate environment. This wheel cover, with permanently fixed internal components, when closed around a wheel and turned in a clockwise or anti-clockwise direction, could act in a brushing and cleaning manner. A typical golf trolley has two wheels, therefore, a pair of these wheel covers would present a complete solution. Each of the pair of wheel covers would be identical.

Reference, throughout this document, will be to one wheel cover, given that it's pair partner is identical.

This wheel cover e.g. a golf trolley wheel cover, has a body consisting of two parts/halves. When in use, the hinge and straps hold both halves of the body closed. When closed around a golf trolley wheel the wheel cover could :

- prevent dirt, mud, wet grass etc. soiling or damaging the immediate environment
- when rotated, act as a cleaning aid which brushes off dry dirt, mud, grass etc. and contain such debris within, until removed after unfastening.

A special embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which :-

FIGURE 1. Shows the closed wheel cover in front elevation.

FIGURE 2. Shows the closed wheel cover in rear elevation.

FIGURE 3. Shows the closed wheel cover in side elevation at hinge side.

FIGURE 4. Shows the closed wheel cover in side elevation at opposite hinge side.

FIGURE 5. Shows typical plan view.

FIGURE 6. Shows as **FIGURE 4.** but in part open position.

FIGURE 7. Shows rear elevation in part open position.

FIGURE 8. Shows internally fitted components.

FIGURE 9. Shows isometrical view in part open position (front angle view).

The wheel cleaning cover, as shown in **FIGURES 1-9**, is a hollow, opening casing, formed from ridged moulded material.

Before opening the casing, straps **3** and **4**, as shown in **FIGURE 3**, have to be unclipped to allow opening to take place. Straps **3** and **4** are permanently fixed by an individual stud **9** and fastener **6** clips to **7** as shown in **FIGURE 7**. This applies to both sides of the wheel cover.

Due to the hinging on the outer edge, it is possible to open and close the wheel cover, encasing a wheel. The hinge **5** which is fixed by **5a** is shown in **FIGURE 3**. By opening **1** and **2** fully these ridged casings can be placed over the golf trolley wheels to be covered. The reverse procedure then takes place to close the wheel cover around the wheel, then to be concealed inside once the straps are fastened externally.

Straps **3** and **4** would be fastened when the cover is in use or not being used, to reduce the stowing space required by the cover.

It is also possible to leave the wheel on its axle, as the elevation in **FIGURE 2** shows. The smaller diameter cut-out **8** in place to accommodate this function.

When the wheel cover is in use, covering a wheel and fastened, dirt, mud, wet grass etc. are kept within the wheel cover. Over a period of time such dirt, mud and grass etc. would evaporate moisture and dry out. The internally adhesed cleaning brush type edges **10** and **11** which are fitted in a semi-circular manor within the casing, when revolved in a circular motion, either clockwise or anti-clockwise, would contain and buff off dirt and grass from the wheel contained within the casing. When the wheel cover is unfastened and removed from the wheel it is possible for excess dirt to be tapped out of the wheel cover casing or washed out as preferred. Item **10** and **11** also assist in noise reduction by helping to prevent rattle and vibration occurring while in use during transit.

The material used in the make-up of this wheel cover would be robust, relatively light easy to handle synthetic type material. Where straps and internal cleaning surfaces occur materials would be flexible to allow movement as should hinged parts. The wheel cover can be colour co-ordinated in the materials from which it is made.

The overall size of the wheel cover is to have a minimum internal size of 80mm x 240mm but will be variable to a range of similar sizes. The 240mm dimension represents a diameter.

CLAIMS

- 1 A wheel cleaning cover comprising of two number hinged, hollow, semi-circular casings; when closed, form of a circular cover around a wheel of suitable size, with means for fastening together securely both halves, provides complete encasement of the wheel within, preventing any dirt or grass on the wheel soiling its immediate external environment.
- 2 A wheel cleaning cover as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the wheel cover can be completely closed, around a wheel which remains on its axle, by means of a correctly sized and positioned cut-out on the rear side of the wheel cover.
- 3 A wheel cleaning cover as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 2, wherein the wheel cleaning cover, when closed; with both halves securely fastened together; encasing the wheel, can be rotated freely clockwise and anti-clockwise.
- 4 A wheel cleaning cover as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 3 wherein, internally adhered cleaning brush type edges, when rotated clockwise or anti-clockwise provides means to brush dirt or grass off the wheel encased.
- 5 A wheel cleaning cover as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the wheel cleaning cover will contain therein any debris from the wheel encased.
- 6 A wheel cleaning cover substantially as described herein with reference to **FIGURES 1-9** of the accompanying drawings Ref: **GB 9417817.5**.

Search Examiner
C J DUFF

Date of completion of Search
24 NOVEMBER 1994

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-
1-6

(i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.

(ii) ONLINE DATABASES: WPI, CLAIMS, JAPIO

Categories of documents

P: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.

E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.

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Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).

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